

are so close to finding cures for devastating disease might not have the funding they need for medical research and breakthrough clinical trials that will change the way we live. Cancer, Alzheimer's, autism will all remain shortchanged if we do not have the discretionary funding necessary to put together the pieces.

Think about the roads, the highways, the bridges. Our children and grandchildren may wake up in a dismal scene. These scenarios only scratch the surface on how concerned we should be about America's future.

The ramifications of out-of-control spending reach far beyond our shores. I have always believed in the biblical admonition that to whom much is given, much is required, and have supported efforts, as have many in this Congress, to fight global hunger and poverty and disease. For example, U.S. Government funding for global HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria was nearly \$20 billion over the last 5 years. The recent 5-year reauthorization commits \$50 billion.

While that is good news for millions hurting around the world, it places America in the position of fulfilling a moral obligation to keep these vulnerable populations alive. Yet where will the money come from if America's foreign assistance dollars continue to shrink because the mandatory spending is taking a growing piece of the pie?

Ecclesiastes 5:5 says, "It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it." I fear, Madam Speaker, that the vow will not be able to be fulfilled because of the deficit spending that we have no way to deal with.

The economic stimulus being shaped by the administration offers an opportunity, and JIM COOPER and I have a bipartisan bill, eight Republicans and eight Democrats, that puts all spending on the table and forces, and forces the Congress to act.

Many Members of the Congress go home and love to give the speeches at the Rotary Clubs talking about how bad the deficit is, but yet when they come back to Washington they do nothing about it. So next week, Madam Speaker, I will offer an amendment in the appropriations bill to put the Cooper-Wolf language into law whereby we can get control of this runaway spending.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

END TO FIGHTING IN GAZA STRIP NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the increasingly grave situation in the Gaza Strip and to express my disappointment that Congress has not spoken more clearly and forcibly in favor of a cease-fire. The latest fighting between Israel and Hamas has led to a humanitarian crisis. According to news reports, quoting various official sources on both sides of the battle, the impact on civilians in Gaza is severe and growing worse.

Madam Speaker, like every Member of this House, I support the right of Israel to defend itself and its people, and, like my colleagues, I strongly denounce Hamas' ongoing indiscriminate destabilizing rocket attacks against civilian populations in southern Israel and Hamas' clear intent to terrorize the people of Israel. In no uncertain terms, I call on Hamas to end its rocket attacks against Israel immediately.

But I also believe in no uncertain terms there must be a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel and it must commence immediately. The loss of life to children and their families, the vast destruction of homes and the enormous suffering in Gaza that is being caused by the escalation of this conflict must end.

Last week, the House spoke out on this latest conflict in the Middle East by passing H. Res. 34 that "recognizes Israel's right to defend itself against the attacks from Gaza, reaffirming the United States' strong support for Israel, and supporting the Israeli-Palestinian peace process."

I was disappointed that, as this body has done so often in the past, the House voted only to reiterate its support for Israel and its right to defend itself, rather than also to have used our considerable influence to pressure both sides to agree to a cease-fire in order to protect civilians on both sides caught in this conflict and in order to work toward a lasting resolution of this conflict that will lead to the protection and security of Israel.

I support much of the language in the resolution, but I regret that H.R. 34 in its entirety was not a correct statement for the House to make at the time. The question for the House and the international community is how the Israeli people will be able to live in peace and security without the constant threat of attack from Hamas and others and how the United States and all other nations can assist in achieving that outcome in a lasting manner.

The House has not weighed in on this question. The House of Representatives should throw its considerable weight behind the call for an immediate cease-fire between Israel and Hamas. The cease-fire is in the best interests of Israel and the United States.

The fact is that there has been a failure of political leadership that has led to this renewed and devastating fighting in Gaza. The Bush administration failed to adequately and successfully address the Middle East conflict during

its time in office and during the time in which we knew the cease-fire was coming to an end, and conditions might have been changed so that it could have been extended.

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The international community has failed to adequately address the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Experts in the Middle East had warned that a conflict of this nature would eventually come, and will continue to come in the future if conditions on the ground do not change. Their warning went unheeded, and now a new and costly war has broken out.

Hamas rocket attacks against Israel are indefensible. But neither can the disproportionate military response by Israel be defended. The latest fighting was preceded by a lengthy and crushing blockade by Israel of Gaza that caused an humanitarian crisis. Hamas, unfortunately, chose to break the cease-fire and continue shelling of Israel. And Israel chose the breaking of the cease-fire to launch, as it should have, a defense of Israel, but unfortunately, with an all-out attack on Gaza.

Lost in all of this is the answer to the question of how the Israeli people can be assured the protection they deserve. The rocket attacks against Israel continue, albeit lessened now, despite the enormous firepower brought against Hamas by Israel. There is no clear answer as to how Israel will bring this conflict to an end in Gaza or clear what Israel's ultimate goals are in this conflict.

Only a cease-fire and a new international commitment to negotiate a cessation of hostilities between Hamas and Israel can protect the people of Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.